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Newsletter

Number 09

5 April 2012



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Sorry

.. promised you there would not be a newsletter this week but felt there were some loose ends we needed to tie up.

Mrs Bruce

The board would like to advise that Mrs Bruce has been granted extended leave until the end of this year. Mrs Bruce has been offered a position as a Resource Teacher of Literacy until the end of this year and will return to Matarau School in 2013. This is a wonderful opportunity for Mrs Bruce to support reluctant readers in the wider Whangarei area and a testimony to the regard in which she is held. We will miss her but we do get her back.

Reading Recovery

We are pleased to advise that our Reading Recovery Programme will start up again in the new term. Parents of junior children involved in this programme will be advised shortly. As Mrs Bruce is on extended leave, Mrs Burgin and Mrs Robertson will be released from their classes to teach Reading Recovery this year.

Room 7

Parents of children in room 7 are advised of some changes effective from the beginning of next term.

.. a small number of children will be withdrawn from this room (and from room 8) to work intensively with Mrs Marvin in areas of identified need. This will enable us to focus intensively on skills of specific relevance to these children .. and will also lower class numbers in their home room. This programme will operate for 15 weeks.

.. until 10:30 each day room 7 will be taught by Miss Williams (currently teaching in room 11) while Mrs Burgin teaches Reading Recovery. Miss Williams will have primary responsibility for the literacy programme for this room for the period in question.

Message of Concern

We have been advised of a person in a white van who has allegedly been approaching children getting off school buses to say he is there to pick them up. To the best of our knowledge this has not happened in our area but has (allegedly) happened elsewhere in the Whangarei area. We have had no luck verifying the source of this or of turning up any concrete information. Nevertheless this is a timely occasion to remind children of the dangers inherent in such situations. Children were spoken to about this at assembly today **and we request that you also reinforce the message at home.**

I would be most interested in hearing of any such incidents and can be contacted on principal@matarau.school.nz . **The Police should be informed immediately if you have any information you think might be of interest to them.**

Mrs Donaldson .. will be back with us next term. We look forward to having her back.

Year 7 and 8 - Science Fair / Action research

By now parents should have received confirmation of their child's preferred topic. Over the holidays it would be really helpful if you could assist your child to gather background information on this topic - maybe a trip to the Public Library. Any questions about topics / experiments in the holidays to Mr D please on sco.jo@xtra.co.nz

Parent / Student Surveys

Still open ..

Parents survey - <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/T5HYZ3J>

Student survey - <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/R3D3QY5>

Thank you for your contribution to these surveys. **We will keep the survey open for two more weeks in the hope of more responses.** Results will be made available later in the year.

Religious Instruction Classes

.. commence Monday 30 April. These classes will operate 9:00 to 9:30 on Monday mornings. Children whose parents have requested non-inclusion will be allocated work for this time and will be supervised and supported by a staff member. If your child was included last year we will assume your consent to include this year. If not included last year we will assume non-inclusion again this year. If you would like to change last year's arrangements please advise our school office in week 1 of term 2 and we will update our records. We also understand that there may be changes within the first 2 weeks of the programme getting up and operating and this is fine (as long as arrangements are firmed up by week beginning 14 May). Please don't hesitate to contact Kevin if you have questions about this programme. The curriculum is ecumenical, mainstream and heavily aligned to the National Health Curriculum. You should feel under no pressure to include or non-include - this is absolutely your call!

Junior Disco 2012

The School Council is holding a disco for Years 1-4. It will be at lunchtime on Wednesday 2nd of May, Week 2 of Term 2. It is \$1 entry. Make sure you come along in your pyjamas!



Learning Support Programme

If your child has been nominated for placement in a learning support programme for term 2 please return their consent form as soon as possible. Parent support with homework tasks is essential if the benefits of involvement are to be optimised.

After School Reading Labs

Reading labs will start in week 2 of term 2. If your child is involved in this programme we will expect them on the days indicated in your consent (minimum 2 sessions per week please). Please remember to ..

.. send a snack for after school

.. pick them up no later than 4:30 PM

.. let their teacher know if you would like some modifications to their homework load in lieu of this additional work.

If you did not receive a letter and you would like to discuss your child/ren's suitability for these labs please give Kevin a call.

Request from the Library

During the coming months there will be lunchtime activities held in the library. For this we require: various sized needles, wool, games and puzzles. If you can be of assistance please contact the office. Thank you very much.

Finally

Have a safe holiday. See you in the new term.

Regards

Kevin Trehwella

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